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Famed Pathologist Opens Clinic Here

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The Washington criminal pathologist whose criticism of Scotland Yard's equipment led to a complete modernization of that famed British organization of sleuths today opened a five-day seminar for Alaskan investigators.

Dr. Charles P. Larsen, who also has served as head of the National and World Boxing Associations, will direct the sessions at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute.

As head of the Tacoma General Hospital's Department of Pathology and president of the U. S. Pathologists Association,

Larsen was invited to London in 1958 "to review the techniques of Scotland Yard."

"Newspapers were so shocked when I criticized the antiquated equipment used at Scotland Yard that I was more infamous than Public Enemy No. 1," Larsen recalled. "They all played up the story and I received hundreds of letters of protest, but the British government voted to allot money to modernize Scotland Yard. That's what counts."

Larsen said he did not intend to raise an uproar while in Alaska, and said any recommendations he might make would cost very little money to put into operation.

"There are people who say I went to London merely to help them get equipment, but I've never admitted that in public," he commented.

Dr. Larsen said that he has been working with Alaskan investigators for a number of years. Much of the testing conducted in autopsies here is done in his laboratory, although Anchorage now has two pathologists, Dr. Michael Beirne and Dr. F. T. Strauss.

"Establishing the cause of death is of prime concern in criminal cases," Larsen said. "Other points to be discussed at the seminar will be investigative photography, the role of the pathologist and the expert witness, pre-autopsy investigation and various other problems in handling violent death situations."

The 25 students include Alaska State Police from Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan and Anchorage, city police investigators from Anchorage and Juneau, representatives of the Federal Aviation Agency, Coast Guard, Central Intelligence Agency and a member of the Whitehorse division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.